

CONFIDENTIAL: To be treated as strictly confidential until released for publication as follows:-

MORNING PAPERS .. THURSDAY, 9TH JULY, 1936.  
EVENING PAPERS .. THURSDAY, 9TH JULY, 1936.

### EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

The latest available statistics, from various sources, which offer some indication of the movement of Employment and Unemployment throughout Australia have been issued by the Commonwealth Statistician.

#### I. INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT.

In view of the smallness of the proportion of wage-earners covered by the trade union returns as to unemployment, and of doubts as to whether they were indicative of the degree of unemployment among all wage-earners, it was decided at the Premiers' Conference in June, 1933 that State Statisticians should co-operate with the Commonwealth Statistician in compiling an Index of Employment.

The report of the Conference referred to the matter in the following terms:-

"The Commonwealth called attention to the need for a more reliable system of measuring unemployment in Australia. The present figures were based on returns from trade unions which cover only 20% of the total employment. The degree of reliance to be placed upon the figures was uncertain. A direct quarterly census of unemployment was estimated to cost £100,000 per annum. Failing a good direct measure of unemployment, the best resource was a measure based on information obtained from employers and other sources."

The work of collecting adequate sample returns of employment was undertaken by the State Statisticians, and it is possible from the data thus obtained to make available progress results for each of the States, and for Australia, covering sections of employment, and indexes of employment covering all sections of employment in New South Wales and Queensland.

Indexes of employment in factories and in retail shops are shown below for all States and for Australia.

#### ANNUAL INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

Base Year 1928-29 = 100.

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	TOTAL
Number of Employees in 1928-29	180,806	156,568	45,031	36,807	20,804	10,466	450,482
1925-26	94	95	106	106	99	97	97
1926-27	99	101	98	112	93	101	100
1927-28	99	100	99	106	98	106	100
1928-29	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1929-30	90	96	95	87	94	103	93
1930-31	71	80	84	65	70	84	75
1931-32	70	82	80	65	64	86	75
1932-33	77	92	83	72	71	88	82
1933-34	85	100	89	80	78	93	90
1934-35	97	108	96	91	85	101	100

Taking the year 1928-29 as the base year (=100) the indexes shown in the above table indicate the course of factory employment during the past ten years, and the progress through the depression years and subsequent periods of recovery. These figures indicate that the pre-depression level was reached for Australia as a whole in 1934-35. In Victoria and Tasmania it was exceeded, while New South Wales at 97 was

/within 3 per cent.

within 3 per cent. of that level. Queensland came next with 96, followed by South Australia with 91 and Western Australia with 85. It must be remembered, however, that the population of the Commonwealth increased by about 5.5% between 1928-29 and 1934-35.

Wage earners dependent on factory employment represent approximately 20 per cent of total persons dependent on employment in the Commonwealth. The relative proportions and the rates of increase in relation to total employment vary between States.

MONTHLY INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT - 1934-35-36.

(Base: Average for Year 1928-29 = 100).

Month	New South Wales	Victoria	Queens- land	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	AUSTRALIA
1934- July ..	90	102	91	84	77	86	93
August ..	92	104	95	86	79	89	95
September	93	105	96	86	83	90	96
October..	96	109	99	88	84	92	99
November	98	110	97	87	83	94	100
December	98	109	92	89	85	98	100
1935- January..	95	105	87	90	85	104	97
February	98	109	89	88	87	109	100
March ..	100	111	92	92	88	108	102
April ..	101	111	94	97	90	109	103
May ..	101	110	96	101	90	112	103
June ..	101	109	97	102	89	110	103
July ..	ø 101	ø 109	ø 99	100	85	108	103
August ..	ø 103	ø 110	ø 99	98	86	110	104
September	ø 105	ø 111	ø 99	102	91	110	106
October..	ø 106	ø 114	ø 102	102	92	112	107
November	ø 108	ø 114	ø 102	99	93	115	108
December	ø 110	ø 115	ø 97	102	95	120	109
1936- January..	ø 105	ø 113	ø 89	103	94	123	106
February	ø 105	ø 119	ø 94	109	95	129	109
March ..	ø 107	ø 123	ø 96	110	96	124	112
April ..	ø 108	-	-	-	-	-	-
May ..	ø 109	-	-	-	-	-	-

ø Preliminary. Based on sample factories. Subject to revision when complete returns are available.

/MONTHLY INDEX



MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN RETAIL STORES.

(Base: July, 1933 = 100)

Month	New South Wales	Victoria	Queens- land	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	SIX STATES
1933- July ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
August ..	97	99	99	102	93	101	98
September	99	101	97	102	93	98	99
October..	99	103	97	99	93	109	100
November.	102	111	100	100	96	108	104
December.	113	121	110	108	106	115	114
1934- January..	102	109	100	103	108	109	105
February.	104	108	99	102	99	105	104
March ..	104	109	100	102	98	107	104
April ..	103	108	100	103	100	105	104
May ..	105	108	102	105	101	105	105
June ..	105	109	103	104	100	105	106
July ..	108	109	104	106	104	107	107
August ..	105	109	103	102	102	105	105
September	107	110	103	103	100	106	107
October..	108	115	104	108	104	104	109
November.	110	122	105	107	104	107	112
December.	123	131	116	118	119	119	124
1935- January ..	109	117	106	108	109	110	111
February.	112	117	106	107	103	108	112
March ..	109	118	105	107	105	107	111
April ..	111	117	105	108	103	107	111
May ..	112	121	106	109	106	107	113
June ..	112	123	105	111	107	106	114
July ..	116	120	107	107	111	109	115
August ..	113	120	108	109	105	108	113
September	113	123	104	113	106	107	114
October..	115	128	107	112	106	107	117
November.	119	131	106	115	109	110	120
December.	133	145	106	128	123	120	132
1936- January..	116	132	109	116	114	115	120
February.	119	133	107	114	110	111	120
March ..	117	132	109	113	110	111	119
April ..	118	-	-	-	-	-	-
May ..	119	-	-	-	-	-	-

The number of establishments in respect of which returns are obtained are - New South Wales, 533; Victoria, 103; Queensland, 120; South Australia, 35; Western Australia, 69; Tasmania, 14. No adjustment has been made in the indexes on account of increased population.

INDEXES OF EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND  
QUEENSLAND.

Working from the basis of the results of the Census of 30th June, 1933, and from compilations made from returns of employers in remitting wages tax, and returns collected from Government Departments, the Government Statistician of New South Wales has prepared an index of employment and unemployment covering all persons dependent on employment in New South Wales. The Director of the Bureau of Industry of Queensland publishes an index of employment and unemployment among men wage and salary earners. The data for this index are derived from information relating to Unemployment Insurance Contributions and other sources. The results are given below -

/NEW SOUTH WALES.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Percentages of Employment and Unemployment - All available wage-earners -  
(a) Including and (b) excluding the full-time equivalent of men engaged  
part-time on relief works.

Month	Percentage of all who are dependent on and available for employment			
	(a) Including full time equivalent of part-time relief workers		(b) Excluding full time equivalent of part-time relief workers	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
Census of 30th June, 1933 ..	74.4	25.6	73.5	26.5
1934- June ..	81.1	18.9	78.0	22.0
1935- June ..	86.6	13.4	83.7	16.3
July ..	87.2	12.8	84.3	15.7
August..	88.0	12.0	85.1	14.9
September	89.2	10.8	86.5	13.5
October.	89.6	10.4	87.0	13.0
November	90.3	9.7	87.8	12.2
December	92.2	7.8	89.7	10.3
1936- January.	88.1	11.9	85.9	14.1
February	88.6	11.4	86.4	13.6
March ..	89.8	10.2	87.6	12.4
April ..	90.1	9.9	87.9	12.1
May ..	90.8	9.2	88.6	11.4

The indexes have been adjusted to allow for an estimated increase of 1.2 per cent. per annum in the number of persons dependent on employment. At the Census of 30th June, 1933, 15,142 persons dependent on employment returned themselves as unemployed by reason of illness, accident, etc. or "voluntarily". This number, representing 1.8 per cent. of all persons dependent on employment, is excluded from the above indexes, which relate to percentages of available wage-earners employed and unemployed. The approximate number of persons in private employment was 478,000 in June, 1933; 519,000 in June, 1934; 567,000 in June, 1935, and 617,000 in May, 1936.

QUEENSLAND.

Employment and Unemployment among Men Wage and Salary Earners. (In  
terms of full-time employment and unemployment.)

Period	Percentage		Approximate Number	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
Average 1929 ..	89.9	10.1	148,340	16,660
" 1930 ..	86.4	13.6	144,630	22,850
" 1931 ..	77.2	22.8	131,270	38,730
" 1932 ..	77.8	22.2	134,130	38,320
" 1933 ..	79.6	20.2	139,720	35,310
" 1934 ..	84.9	15.1	150,870	26,800
" 1935 ..	89.0	11.0	160,510	19,820
" 1936 (to April)	91.2	8.8	166,090	16,040
3 months ended -				
April, 1935 ..	88.2	11.8	156,620	21,150
June, 1935 ..	89.9	10.1	162,040	18,170
July, " ..	89.1	10.9	160,750	19,680
August, " ..	86.6	11.2	160,490	20,170
September, 1935 ..	89.0	11.0	161,060	19,820
October, " ..	90.1	9.9	163,140	17,970
November, " ..	90.6	9.4	164,310	17,020
December, " ..	91.3	8.7	165,840	15,720
January, 1936 ..	91.5	8.5	166,390	15,400
February " ..	90.9	9.1	165,490	16,520
March " ..	91.0	9.0	165,890	16,350
April " ..	91.3	8.7	166,570	15,890

✓ Relief Work: The full-time equivalent was approximately 9,650 men. Without this work the percentage unemployed would have been 14.0.



# BUILDING PERMITS.

A further index of the relative activity in industry is furnished by Building Permits issued, and the estimated amount to be spent on the proposed buildings and repairs.

The following tables give details of the value of Building Permits issued in the Six Capital Cities and Suburbs of the Commonwealth for the periods shown.

Year	Buildings for Habitation	Buildings for Other Purposes	Alterations and Additions	Total Value All Building Operations
1928-29 (a) ..	£. 17,455,449	£. 4,902,928	(b) £. 1,932,887	£. 24,291,264
1929-30 (a) ..	11,057,069	3,098,700	(b) 1,741,291	15,897,060
1930-31 (a) ..	1,989,167	1,547,005	(b) 799,245	4,335,417
1931-32 ..	1,533,325	1,848,257	1,225,680	4,607,262
1932-33 ..	3,185,679	1,503,877	2,161,846	6,851,402
1933-34 ..	6,105,369	2,194,162	2,885,378	11,184,909
1934-35 ..	9,606,533	3,829,676	4,173,041	17,610,590
Quarter ended -				
March, 1935 ..	2,436,466	942,604	1,110,558	4,489,628
June, " ..	2,936,510	1,271,694	1,180,786	5,388,990
September, " ..	3,428,704	1,275,712	1,088,729	5,793,145
December " ..	2,779,521	941,246	1,159,741	4,880,508
March, 1936 ..	2,946,420	1,378,537	1,009,013	5,333,970

(a) Exclusive of City of Sydney; (b) Exclusive of Sydney and Suburbs.

## BUILDING PERMITS IN CAPITAL CITIES AND SUBURBS OF EACH STATE.

Period	Sydney and Suburbs	Melbourne and Suburbs	Brisbane and Suburbs	Adelaide and Suburbs	Perth and Suburbs	Hobart and Suburbs	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
1928-29 ..	(a) 9,715	7,661	2,440	1,807	2,518	150	24,291
1929-30 ..	(a) 5,810	5,576	1,414	1,158	1,833	106	15,697
1930-31 ..	(a) 1,005	1,434	1,098	314	393	91	4,335
1931-32 ..	995	1,861	876	217	596	62	4,607
1932-33 ..	2,257	2,568	793	400	732	101	6,851
1933-34 ..	4,142	4,218	1,051	617	988	169	11,185
1934-35 ..	7,632	5,604	1,654	1,164	1,354	203	17,611
1935 -							
March Quarter	2,071	1,361	335	333	346	43	4,489
June " "	2,388	1,766	521	306	337	71	5,389
September " "	2,528	1,788	574	304	505	94	5,793
December " "	1,964	1,647	533	359	335	43	4,881
1936 -							
March Quarter	2,456	1,784	412	251	378	53	5,334

(a) Exclusive of City of Sydney and value of alterations and additions in Sydney and Suburbs.

## II. UNEMPLOYMENT, QUARTER ENDED JUNE, 1936.

The figures relating to unemployment among members of Trade Unions are similar to those published quarterly in the past, and are derived from returns furnished by Trade Unions.

The number of trade unionists represented in the returns, from which the following figures have been derived, is normally about half the total. Generally, it may be said that the returns of unemployment include little information about rural employment, so that the percentage results given herein do not vary greatly with the season, though the food preserving industries have some effect in this connection. The total unemployment in the country, however, may be affected a good deal by the crop seasons.

The percentages of unemployment among members of reporting Trade Unions for Australia as a whole for each quarter from the June Quarter of 1932, when unemployment was at its maximum, to the June Quarter of 1936, are as follows:-

/AUSTRALIA.

AUSTRALIA.

1932 - June	Quarter	30.0 per cent.		
1933 - March	"	26.5	"	"
June	"	25.7	"	"
September	"	25.1	"	"
December	"	23.0	"	"
1934 - March	"	21.9	"	"
June	"	20.9	"	"
September	"	20.4	"	"
December	"	18.8	"	"
1935 - March	"	18.6	"	"
June	"	17.8	"	"
September	"	15.9	"	"
December	"	13.7	"	"
1936 - March	"	13.4	"	"
June	"	12.8	"	"

It should be noted that the figures refer to the mid-month of each quarter, and represent the conditions at the middle of that month. Consequently, the latest figures referred to herein relate to the middle of May, 1936.

The percentages given above show a continuous decline from the peak point (30.0%) in unemployment attained in the June Quarter of 1932, after an almost continuous rise since 1929, when the rate was 9.3 per cent. After remaining fairly constant at 28.0 per cent. to 28.3 per cent. for three quarters - from August, 1931, to February, 1932 - the maximum point was reached in May, 1932, when the proportion of unemployment in the reporting Trade Unions was 30 per cent. of the membership.

From the peak the proportion of unemployed decreased by 4 per thousand in the September quarter of 1932, and in the two following quarters the improvement was much more marked, amounting to 15 per 1,000 in the December quarter of 1932, and 16 per 1,000 in the March quarter of 1933. The improvement continued until unemployment stood at 12.8 per cent. for the June quarter 1936. This is the lowest percentage of unemployment since August, 1929, when it was 12.1 per cent. Since the maximum point in May, 1932, the rate of unemployment has diminished by 17.2 per cent., or 172 per 1,000 members, i.e. from 30.0 per cent. in May, 1932, to 12.8 per cent. in May, 1936.

This improvement since May, 1932 has been experienced in all the States in the following order (per 1,000 members):- South Australia, 242; Western Australia, 211; Victoria, 171; New South Wales, 170; Tasmania, 147; Queensland, 114. The more recent improvement of the June quarter 1936, over the previous quarter, was shared by four States in the following order (per 1,000 members):- South Australia, 12; Western Australia, 11; New South Wales, 10; Victoria, 2. The figure for Queensland remained stationary; while a rise of 16 per 1,000 members occurred in Tasmania, largely due to the close of the fruit picking season.

The usual tables for Trade Union Unemployment are appended.

AUSTRALIA - Number and Membership of Trade Unions reporting, and Number and Percentage of Unemployed - March Quarter, 1929, to June Quarter, 1936.

AUSTRALIA	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	June Quarter 1934	June Quarter 1935	December Quarter 1935	March Quarter 1936	June Quarter 1936
Number of Unions	375	396	394	394	397	395	394	394
Membership ..	420,756	413,742	415,559	422,113	433,254	439,165	445,294	446,564
Unemployed -								
Number ..	39,159	124,068	106,652	88,413	77,177	59,992	59,621	57,001
Percentage ..	9.3	30.0	25.7	20.9	17.8	13.7	13.4	12.8

/STATES -



STATES - Percentage of Members of Reporting Trade Unions returned as  
Unemployed in each State - March Quarter, 1929, to  
June Quarter, 1936.

STATE	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	June Quarter 1934	June Quarter 1935	December Quarter 1935	March Quarter 1936	June Quarter 1936
	%.	%.	%.	%.	%..	%.	%.	%.
New South Wales..	9.7	33.2	29.6	25.0	22.7	17.0	17.2	16.2
Victoria ..	8.6	27.7	23.0	18.0	15.0	11.3	10.8	10.6
Queensland ..	7.1	19.9	15.6	12.7	8.8	7.7	8.5	8.5
South Australia..	13.2	35.2	30.0	25.4	18.9	14.7	12.2	11.0
Western Australia	8.5	30.3	26.0	18.3	13.9	11.8	10.3	9.2
Tasmania ..	8.7	27.4	19.0	17.9	16.4	13.7	11.1	12.7
TOTAL:	9.3	30.0	25.7	20.9	17.8	13.7	13.4	12.8

The above returns are compiled and published substantially on the basis that has been adopted in regard to Trade Union returns since 1911. It is to be noted, however, that the returns relate to members of trade unions embracing only about 20 per cent. of wage-earners, and that for some States these constitute a more representative sample of employment than for others. The percentages include persons unemployed from all causes, other than those unemployed directly as a result of industrial disputes. They may be interpreted as relating to the members of unions making returns who are not, according to the records or knowledge of the union Secretary, employed within union callings.

The percentages do not exactly represent the proportion of total unemployment in Australia as a whole, though Census data and other records indicate that they give a reasonable picture of the development of the unemployment crisis in Australia and the recovery therefrom.

In view of the very definite nature of the information on which are based the indexes of employment and unemployment for New South Wales, and those relating to men for Queensland, these indexes should be the most accurate record available of unemployment in those States.

This document is published by the Commonwealth Statistician and contains statistics or abstracts thereof compiled and tabulated by the Commonwealth Statistician pursuant to the Census and Statistics Act, 1905-1930.

ROLAND WILSON.  
Commonwealth Statistician  
9th July, 1936.